

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A bicycle rim comprising:

an annular tire attachment portion adapted to have a tire mounted thereon;

an annular spoke attachment portion fixedly coupled with said tire attachment portion to form an annular hollow area, said spoke attachment portion including a plurality of circumferentially spaced spoke attachment openings with each of said spoke attachment openings having a central axis; and

a plurality of separate reinforcement members fixedly coupled to an exterior surface of said spoke attachment portion at said attachment openings to effectively increase the thickness of said spoke attachment portion of said rim at said attachment openings, each of said reinforcement members being located entirely exteriorly of said spoke attachment portion hollow area and having a through opening that is aligned with one of said attachment openings, said through opening having an inner diameter that is configured and arranged to allow a spoke to be adjustably and releasably coupled thereto,

each of said reinforcement members including:

a projecting portion extending inwardly from one of said spoke attachment openings in a radial direction of the rim to an end surface ~~that~~ spaced radially inwardly of said exterior surface of said spoke attachment portion, and

a rim-facing surface overlying an attachment area of said exterior surface of said spoke attachment portion that surrounds a corresponding one of said spoke attachment openings,

said attachment areas of said exterior surface of said spoke attachment portion
being free of any through openings except for said spoke attachment
openings.

2. (Currently Amended) The bicycle rim according to claim 1, wherein
each of said through openings is substantially coincident with a respective one of said
spoke attachment openings as viewed along said central axes of said spoke attachment
openings.

3. (Currently Amended) The bicycle rim according to claim 1, wherein
each of said reinforcement members has a maximum overlapping ~~in~~ dimension that
overlaps said annular spoke attachment portion that is at least as large as a maximum
transverse dimension of a respective one of said spoke attachment openings as measured from
an outer peripheral edge of said reinforcement member to said respective one of said spoke
attachment openings.

4. (Currently Amended) The bicycle rim according to claim 1, wherein
~~each of said reinforcement members has a rim-facing~~ said rim-facing surface that
corresponds to a contour of said exterior surface of said spoke attachment portion.

5. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 1, wherein
each of said reinforcement members is welded to said spoke attachment portion.

6. (Currently Amended) The bicycle rim according to claim 5, wherein

each of said reinforcement members is welded around an outer periphery thereof that is spaced from a respective one of said spoke attachment openings.

7. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 1, wherein each of said reinforcement members is brazed onto said spoke attachment portion.

8. (Currently Amended) The bicycle rim according to claim 7, wherein each of said reinforcement members is brazed around an outer periphery thereof that is spaced from a respective one of said spoke attachment openings.

9. (Currently Amended) The bicycle rim according to claim 1, wherein each of said spoke attachment openings of said spoke attachment portion is threaded, and said through opening of each of said reinforcement members is threaded.

10. (Withdrawn) The bicycle rim according to claim 1, wherein each of said attachment openings of said spoke attachment portion is unthreaded, and said through opening of each of said reinforcement members is unthreaded.

11. (Currently Amended) The bicycle rim according to claim 1, wherein the said spoke attachment portion includes a pair of annular side sections extending radially outwardly from an inner annular section to form a first substantially U-shaped cross-sectional shape as viewed in a transverse cross-sectional direction; and said tire attachment portion includes a pair of annular tire support sections and an annular bridge section that extends between said tire support sections to form a second

substantially U-shaped cross-sectional shape as viewed in said transverse cross-sectional direction in order to form said annular hollow area together with said spoke attachment portion.

12. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 11, wherein
said annular bridge section is free of openings except for a single valve aperture formed therein; and
said spoke attachment portion includes a valve opening aligned with said single valve aperture of said annular bridge section.

13. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 11, wherein
said annular side sections and said inner annular section of said spoke attachment portion, and said annular tire support sections and said annular bridge section of said tire attachment portion are integrally formed together as a one-piece, unitary member that is separate from said reinforcement members.

14. (Currently Amended) The bicycle rim according to claim 1, wherein
said spoke attachment openings are formed in an inner annular section of said spoke attachment portion that forms an inner radial periphery of said rim such that said central axes of said spoke attachment openings extend in a substantially radial direction of said rim.

15. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 14, wherein
each of said reinforcement members has a symmetrical shape relative to a center plane of said rim, and

each of said reinforcement members has a symmetrical shape relative to a center radial plane thereof that is perpendicular to said center plane.

16. (Currently Amended) The bicycle rim according to claim 14, wherein each of the said reinforcement members has a maximum overall circumferential dimension at least as large as a maximum overall axial dimension thereof.

17. (Currently Amended) The bicycle rim according to claim 14, wherein each of said reinforcement members has a base portion with a first thickness and said projecting portion extends radially inwardly from said base portion such that said projecting portion has a second thickness that is at least twice said first thickness, and said through opening of each reinforcement member is formed in ~~said~~ said projecting portion.

18. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 17, wherein said base portion of each of said reinforcement members includes a tapered section extending around an outer periphery thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) The bicycle rim according to claim 14, wherein each of said through openings is substantially coincident with a respective one of said spoke attachment openings as viewed along said central axes of said spoke attachment openings.

20. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 14, wherein

each of said reinforcement members has a maximum overlapping dimension that overlaps said annular spoke attachment portion that is at least as large as a maximum transverse dimension of a respective one of said attachment openings as measured from an outer peripheral edge of said reinforcement member to said respective one of said attachment openings.

21. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 1, wherein said spoke attachment portion of said rim has a substantially uniform radial thickness in an annular area where said reinforcement members are fixed.

22. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 1, wherein said spoke attachment portion and said tire attachment portion are integrally formed together as a one-piece, unitary member that is separate from said reinforcement members.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of making a bicycle rim, comprising:
forming an annular rim that includes an annular tire attachment portion and an annular spoke attachment portion fixedly coupled with the annular tire attachment portion to form an annular hollow area;

fixedly coupling a plurality of reinforcement members to an exterior surface of the spoke attachment portion such that the reinforcement members are located entirely exteriorly of the spoke attachment portion ~~annular hollow area~~ in a circumferentially spaced arrangement to effectively increase the thickness of the spoke attachment portion; and

forming a plurality of attachment openings with one of the attachment openings extending through one of the reinforcement members and through the spoke attachment

portion of the rim, each of the attachment openings having an inner diameter that is configured and arranged to allow a spoke to be adjustably and releasably coupled thereto,

each of said reinforcement members including:

a projecting portion extending inwardly from one of said attachment openings
in a radial direction of the rim to an end surface ~~that~~ spaced radially
inwardly of said exterior surface of said spoke attachment portion, and
a rim facing surface overlying an attachment area of said exterior surface of
said spoke attachment portion that surrounds a corresponding one of said
attachment openings,
said attachment areas of said exterior surface of said spoke attachment portion
being free of any through openings except for said spoke attachment
openings.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein
the forming of the attachment openings occurs after ~~the~~ fixedly coupling the
reinforcement members to the spoke attachment portion.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 23, further comprising
forming internal threads in the attachment openings.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein
the fixedly coupling of the reinforcement members to the annular spoke attachment
portion is achieved by welding.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein
the fixedly coupling of the reinforcement members to the annular spoke attachment
portion is achieved by brazing.

28. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein
the forming of the annular rim includes forming the spoke attachment portion with a
pair of annular side sections extending radially outward from an inner annular section to form
a first substantially U-shaped cross-sectional shape as viewed in a transverse cross-sectional
direction, and

the forming of the annular rim includes forming the tire attachment portion with a pair
of annular tire support sections and an annular bridge section that extends between the tire
support sections to form a second substantially U-shaped cross-sectional shape as viewed in
the transverse cross-sectional direction.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 28, wherein
the annular side sections and the inner annular section of the spoke attachment portion,
and the annular tire support sections and the annular bridge section of the tire attachment
portion are integrally formed together as a one-piece, unitary member during the forming of
the annular rim.

30. (Original) The method according to claim 28, wherein
the plurality of attachment openings are formed in the inner annular section of
the spoke attachment portion.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 30, further comprising forming internal threads in the attachment openings.
32. (Original) The method according to claim 31, further comprising forming a single valve aperture in the annular bridge section without forming any other openings in the annular bridge section; and forming a single valve opening in the spoke attachment portion that is aligned with the single valve aperture of the annular bridge section.
33. (Original) The method according to claim 30, further comprising forming a plurality of circumferentially spaced access openings in the annular bridge section that are configured to be substantially aligned in a radial direction with the plurality of attachment openings.
34. (Currently Amended) A bicycle rim comprising:
an annular tire attachment portion adapted to have a tire mounted thereon;
an annular spoke attachment portion fixedly coupled with said tire attachment portion to form an annular hollow area, said spoke attachment portion including a plurality of circumferentially spaced spoke attachment openings with each of ~~the~~ said spoke attachment openings having a central axis; and
a plurality of separate reinforcement members fixedly coupled to an exterior surface of said spoke attachment portion at said spoke attachment openings to effectively increase the thickness of said spoke attachment portion of said rim at said spoke attachment openings, each of said reinforcement members being located entirely exteriorly of said spoke

attachment portion ~~hollow area~~ and having a through opening that is aligned with one of said spoke attachment openings, said through opening having an inner diameter that is configured and arranged to allow a spoke to be adjustably and releasably coupled thereto,

each of said reinforcement members having a base portion with a first thickness and a central projecting portion extending radially inwardly from said base portion, said projecting portion having a second thickness that is at least twice said first thickness,

said through opening of each reinforcement member being formed in said projecting portion, and

said spoke attachment openings being formed in an inner annular section of said spoke attachment portion that forms an inner radial periphery of said rim such that said central axes of said spoke attachment openings extend in a substantially radial direction of said rim.

35. (New) The bicycle rim according to claim 34, wherein

said base portion of each of said reinforcement members includes a tapered section extending around an outer periphery thereof.